

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

II. Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for calculating a measure in a database having a plurality of stars, each of the stars comprising a fact table, a table for each supported dimension, and a set of dimension indicators, wherein each of the dimension indicators is associated with a particular dimension and each dimension indicator indicates a level of aggregation of at least one associated aggregated fact table comprising aggregated facts with respect to the particular dimension, the method comprising:

providing a flag with at least one star of the plurality of stars, each flag indicating the availability of its associated star;

selecting a stargroup associated with the measure, the stargroup comprising one or more stars;

comparing one or more dimension indicators of the one or more stars of the selected stargroup to one or more requested levels of aggregation;

evaluating the availability of the one or more stars of the selected stargroup by reviewing their associated flags;

selecting a particular star of the one or more stars **based on the comparison of the one or more dimension indicators to the one or more requested levels of aggregation and the evaluation of the availability of the one or more stars** ~~[[by comparing one or more dimension indicators of the one or more stars to one or more requested levels of aggregation]]~~; and

querying the associated aggregated fact tables comprising the aggregated facts.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the one or more dimension indicators of each of the one or more stars to the one or more requested levels **of aggregation** further comprises successively comparing the requested levels **of aggregation** to

the dimension indicators of one or more of the stars, wherein each star is associated with a table of aggregated facts of successively lower aggregation.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting the particular star further comprises selecting the particular star wherein at least one of the dimension indicators of the particular star is equal to or exceeds at least one of the requested levels **of aggregation**.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 receiving a request for calculating a metric, wherein the request to calculate the metric is associated with one or more levels of **aggregation of** one or more dimensions;
 and
 retrieving a metric definition associated with the metric, wherein the metric definition comprises the measure.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for calculating measures, the instructions comprising:
 selecting a stargroup associated with the measure, the stargroup comprising one or more stars comprising a set of dimension indicators, wherein each of the dimension indicators is associated with a particular dimension and each dimension indicator indicates a level of aggregation of an associated table comprising aggregated facts with respect to the particular dimension;
 providing a flag with at least one star of the one or more stars of the selected stargroup, each flag indicating the availability of its associated star;
 comparing one or more dimension indicators of the one or more stars of the selected stargroup to one or more requested levels of aggregation;
 evaluating the availability of the one or more stars of the selected stargroup by reviewing their associated flags;
 selecting a particular star of the one or more stars **based on the comparison of the one or more dimension indicators to the one or more requested levels of aggregation and the evaluation of the availability of the one or more stars** ~~[[by comparing one or more dimension indicators of each of the one or more stars to one or more requested levels]]~~; and

querying the associated aggregated fact tables comprising the aggregated facts.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the instructions for comparing one or more dimension indicators of each of the one or more stars to one or more requested levels of aggregation further comprises instructions for successively comparing the requested levels of aggregation to the set of dimension indicators of one or more of the stars, wherein each star is associated with a table of aggregated facts of successively lower aggregation.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the instructions for selecting the particular star further comprises instructions for selecting the particular star wherein at least one of the dimension indicators of the particular star is equal to or exceeds each of the requested levels of aggregation.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein the sequences of instructions further comprise:

receiving a request for calculating a metric, wherein the request to calculate the metric is associated with one or more levels of aggregation of one or more dimensions;
and
retrieving a metric definition associated with the metric, wherein the metric definition comprises the measure.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A system for calculating measures, the system comprising:
a first memory means for storing a star identifier identifying a star associated with a particular fact table, the star having an associated flag for indicating availability of the star; and
a second memory means for storing an array of dimension indicators.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a third memory means for storing an aggregate fact table, wherein the aggregate fact table is aggregated with respect to at least one of the dimensions at a particular level.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein at least one of the dimension indicators corresponds to the at least one dimension, and wherein at least one indicator is indicative of the particular level of aggregation.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, further comprising:
a first plurality of memory means, wherein each of the first plurality of memory means stores a first corresponding plurality of stars, wherein each of the first corresponding plurality of stars is associated with a corresponding one of a first plurality of aggregate fact tables, and wherein each of the first plurality of aggregate fact tables supports a first measure;
a second plurality of memory means, wherein each of the second plurality of memory means stores a corresponding one of a first plurality of arrays for storing dimension indicators.

Claim 15 (Previously Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the first plurality of memory means stores the first corresponding plurality of stars based on a degree of aggregation of the first plurality of aggregate fact tables associated therewith.

Claim 16 (Previously Amended) The system of claim 14, further comprising:
a third plurality of memory means, wherein each of the third plurality of memory means stores a second corresponding plurality of stars, wherein each of the second corresponding plurality of stars is associated with a corresponding one of a second plurality of aggregate fact tables, and wherein each of the second plurality of aggregate fact tables supports a second measure;
a fourth plurality of memory means, wherein each of the fourth plurality of memory means stores a corresponding one of a second plurality arrays for storing dimension indicators.